

HOUSE BILL 1169
By Towns

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, relative to public health.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 140, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated part:

§68-140-801. The department of health, in conjunction with the Tennessee emergency management agency, shall develop a plan and procedures for responding to a biological or chemical attack that provides the maximum possible protection to persons affected by such an attack.

§68-140-802.

(a) In developing the plan and procedures, the department shall draw upon expertise from state agencies, colleges, universities, and other public and private entities with knowledge and expertise in this area.

(b) The plan and procedures shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) An adequate infrastructure of health care facilities for accurately diagnosing and treating large-scale numbers of patients;

(2) Quarantine procedures to protect the general population from individuals who may be infected with a communicable disease or condition;

(3) Effective lines of communication between health care professionals and the department to provide quick and accurate identification of potential biological attack; and

(4) Appropriate levels of stockpiled medicines and vaccines for treatment and prevention.

(c) The plan and procedures shall be fully implemented and in effect not later than July 1, 2004.

§68-140-803. The provisions of title 10, chapter 7 and title 8, chapter 44, shall not apply to records developed or meetings held in devising the plan and procedures required by this part to the extent that the commissioner of health and the attorney general jointly determine that public disclosure of such records or meetings may reasonably be expected to jeopardize the public safety or health.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.